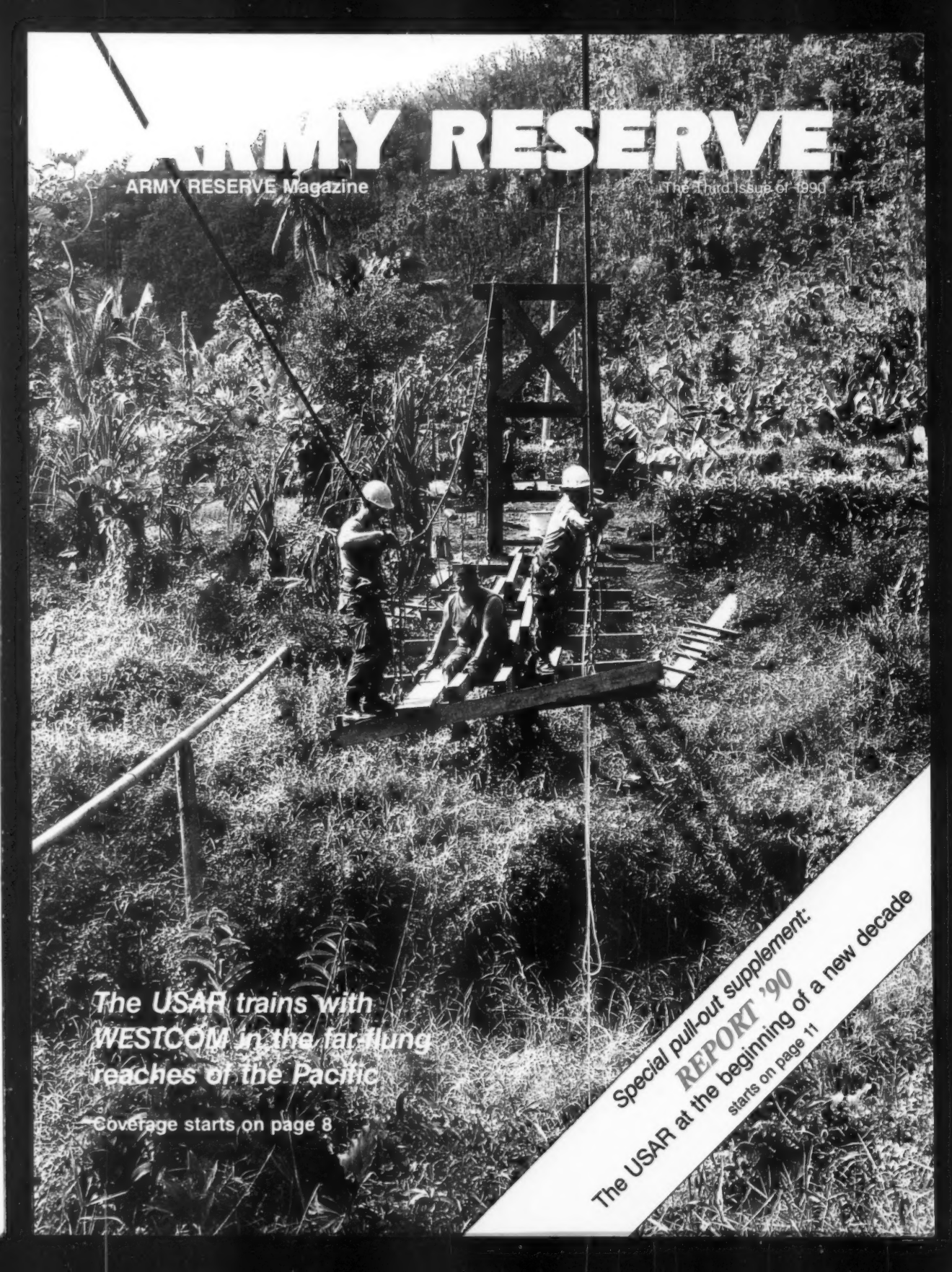
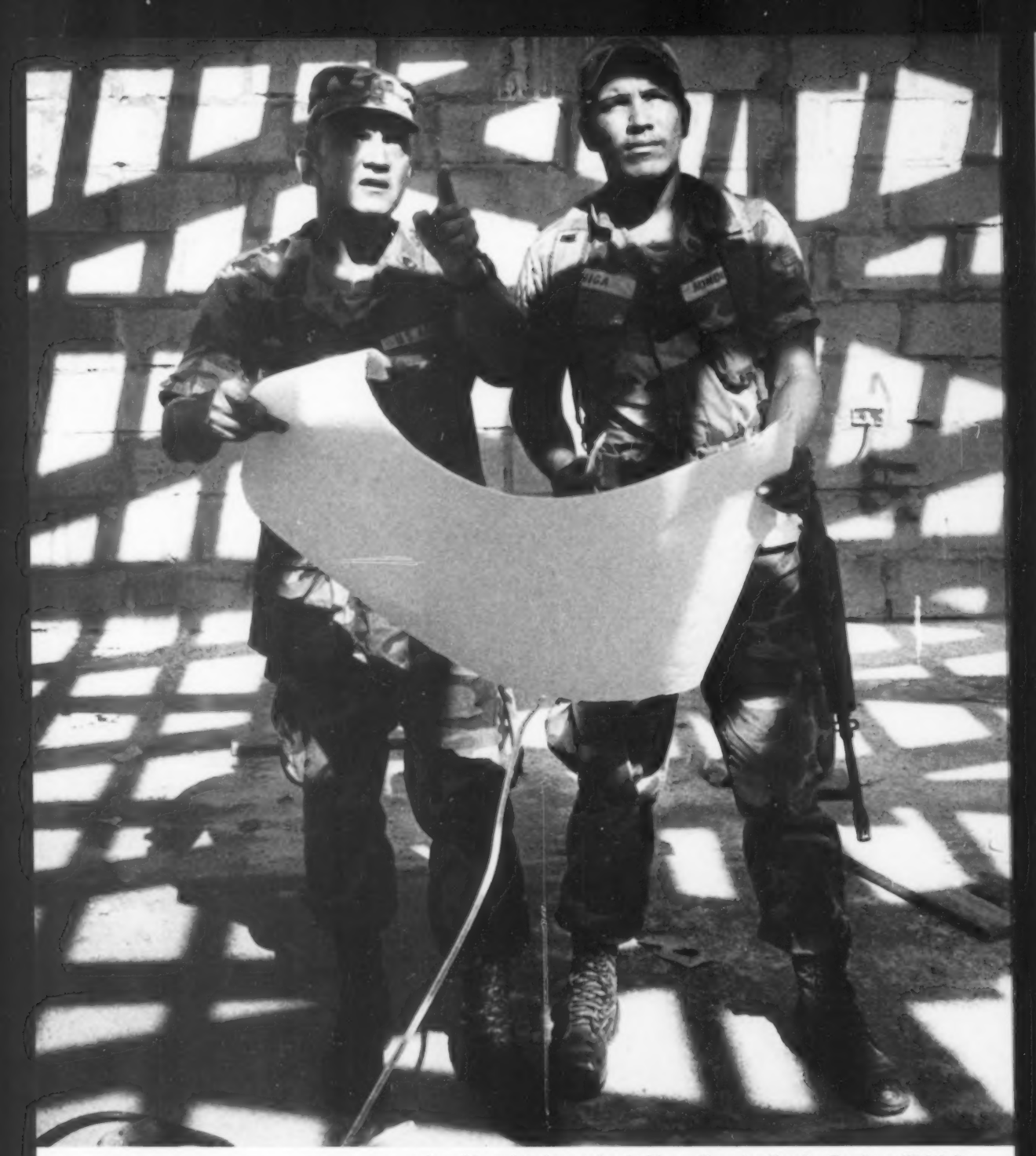

ARMY RESERVE
ARMY RESERVE Magazine
The Third Issue of 1990
The USAR trains with WESTCOM in the far-flung reaches of the Pacific
Coverage starts on page 8
Special pull-out supplement:
REPORT '90
The USAR at the beginning of a new decade
starts on page 11



Raising the roof . . .

SFC Michael Sabo, 820th Engineer Bn.(Combat)(Heavy), San Pablo, Calif., reviews blueprints for a school with a counterpart Honduran construction specialist. The school was being built for handicapped children in the country where Sabo was taking part in Exercise *Fuertes Caminos*. Watch for our final edition of 1990 for a complete wrap-up of this year's road building efforts in Central America.

(Photo by Ed Eckstein)

ARMY RESERVE Magazine

Volume XXXVI
Number 3

Contents

"The Secretary of Defense shall require the complete and current dissemination to all reserves and the Public of information of interest to the reserve components."
Section 278, Title 10, U.S. Code.

CHIEF, ARMY RESERVE
Major General William F. Ward Jr.

CHIEF, PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Joseph G. Hanley

MANAGING EDITOR
Lieutenant Colonel B. R. Devlin

ARMY RESERVE Magazine is an official Department of Defense publication and is published quarterly by the Chief, U.S. Army Reserve, ATTN: DAAR-PA, The Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-2400, in accordance with Section 278, Title 10 USC. The Secretary of Defense has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of the Department of Defense. Use of funds for printing this publication has been approved by the Secretary of the Army on September 2, 1986 in accordance with the provisions of AR 310-1. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of the Army or the Chief, Army Reserve, nor should they be construed as either official policy or directive in nature.

Direct communication with the editor is authorized at the address below. Local reproduction of all materials is approved, except that which is marked as copyrighted. ARMY RESERVE invites articles, story ideas photographs and layouts. Material submitted is subject to editing and factual review. A writer's guide is available upon request to the editor. Manuscripts and other correspondence for the editor should be addressed to ARMY RESERVE Magazine, 1815 North Fort Myer Drive, Room 501, Arlington, VA 22209-1805. The telephone number is AUTOVON 226-3962 or commercial (202) 696-3962.

The use of the third person pronoun "he" and any of its forms are used by ARMY RESERVE Magazine to include both masculine and feminine genders.

Paid subscriptions and individual copies are available through the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402

ADDRESS CHANGE

RESERVE MEMBERS: Changes of address must be made through unit SIDPERS-USAR clerks (TPU members only) or by mail directly to the appropriate Personnel Management Officer or Career Manager at ARPERCEN, 9700 Page Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63132-5200.
POSTMASTER: Forward changes of address (USPS Form 3579) for paid subscriptions to Superintendent of Documents, ATTN: Mail List Branch SSOM, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

ISSN # 0004-2579
USPS #552-590

Training in the Pacific

The USAR is becoming more involved in Western Command's Expanded Relations Program. This issue begins to look at those training activities with a collection of stories which will conclude in the next issue. ***Page 8***

Report '90

The USAR's "corporate report to shareholders" is included with this issue of *ARMY RESERVE Magazine*. Even though the report is actually designed for an "external" readership, the information it contains will be of use to all Reservists as we enter the last decade of the Twentieth Century. ***Page 11***

Maintenance training

Achieving high levels of training and then sustaining them is the aim of a new USAR program known as *Regional Training Sites — Maintenance*. This issue offers an overview of the effort. A later issue will focus on the two High-Tech versions of the sites. ***Page 23***

Three-time winners

For the third year in a row the Army Reserve's top drill sergeant comes from Oklahoma's 95th Division (Training). This year's winner tells all about how the 95th keeps coming out on top. ***Page 25***

Departments

Update . . . . . **Page 4**
People . . . . . **Page 7**
Forum . . . . . **Page 29**

About our cover:

On our front cover, members of the 961st Engineer Bn. (Combat) (Heavy) from Milwaukee, Wisc., reconstruct a footbridge on Western Samoa lost to Hurricane Ofa earlier this year. The unit was in the Pacific as part of U.S. Army Western Command's Expanded Relations Program. *Photo by SFC Randall Wiesner, Company C, 961st.* On our rear cover, a Reservist from the 88th ARCOM's 417th Maintenance Co., Farivault, Minn., "peaks" the output of an AN/PRC-77 portable FM radio during field radio repair training at Tobyhanna Army Depot's High-Tech Training Center. *Photo by SSgt. Dave Zerbe, 326th Public Affairs Det., Reading, Pa.*

Divorce can affect Army Reserve pay

by Maj. Donald Betzold

If I get divorced, will my spouse be entitled to part of my pay?

Yes, in some cases.

A military pension is an asset and, like any other marital asset, it is subject to division when the marriage ends. The Uniformed Services Former Spouses Protection Act is a federal law which allows state courts to treat retired pay as marital property or community property.

A few conditions must first be satisfied. The family court must have jurisdiction over the soldier/retiree on the basis of domicile, consent, or residence (other than due to military assignment).

Another important factor is the "ten year rule". The party's marriage must overlap with at least ten years of service creditable for retirement pay. If the parties were not married for at least ten years of the member's service, the spouse cannot receive payments from the service-member's retirement pay, even if it is ordered by a judge or even if the parties agree to it.

The finance centers strictly follow the federal law. If a spouse is entitled to part of the service-member's pension, the spouse can receive direct payments from the appropriate military finance center. The divorce decree must call for payments from retired military pay and must state either a specific amount in U.S. dollars or a formula from which the amount can be derived.

The federal law limits the amount of money which the finance center will pay to the former spouse. A state court can award more than that, but the former spouse would have to collect the additional sums from the member's other assets or income. Finally, even if a pension is deemed "untouchable", the parties can give, or the court can award, the spouse a greater share of other marital properties, such as the homestead, in lieu of pension interests.

(Maj. Betzold is a military lawyer assigned to the 214th JAG Det., 88th ARCOM, Ft. Snelling, Minn.)

OCAR announces winning USAR communities

Washington, D.C. — The USAR winners in the first-ever Army Reserve/Chief of Staff of the Army's, **Army Communities of Excellence** (ACOE) competition for 1990 have been announced by Maj. Gen. William Ward, Chief, Army Reserve.

Until this year, only active duty Army installations could be considered for the honor.

The 75th Maneuver Area Command, Houston, Texas won first place and was presented a check for $150,000 by Gen. Carl E. Vuono, Army Chief of Staff, and Maj. Gen. Ward.

Winners also received the Chief of Staff trophy and an ACOE flag to fly over their reserve center.

The 103rd Corps Support Command, Des Moines, Iowa and the 375th Transportation Group (MT), 121st ARCOM, Mobile, Ala. each received checks for $100,000, while the 81st ARCOM, Atlanta, Ga. and the 1st Bde., 91st Div. (TNG), Sacramento, Calif., garnered checks for $75,000. All winners were honored in ceremonies conducted at the Pentagon.

These USAR centers represent the best centers in the Army Reserve by exhibiting a continued commitment to excellence in improving facilities and services for our soldiers, their families and their employers.

If you think your center can use $75,000 to $150,000 for use in enhancing that commitment, don't hesitate to see how you can participate in the competition for next year's awards. DA Pamphlet 600-46, **Army Communities of Excellence** will give you the guidelines you need to demonstrate to the rest of the world that yours is the best USAR center in the Army Reserve.

For more information about ACOE, contact Lt. Col. Samuel A. McNabb at OCAR, commercial (202) 696-3993 or 3994 or on AUTOVON at 226-3993 or 3994.

Advanced degree for reserve trainers offered

Boise, Id. — Boise State University, working jointly with the U.S. Army Research Institute Office in Boise, is introducing a non-resident master's degree program designed for those interested in the military applications of training technology, particularly within the reserve component training environment. The new program is fully accredited and consists of a unique, innovative and comprehensive 36 semester-hour curriculum leading to a Master of Science (MS) Degree in Instructional Technology, within the College of Technology.

For an explanation of acronyms used in the magazine, see the Army Reserve Glossary on page 5

The degree is a very appropriate one for any qualified soldier — reserve or active component — as well as defense-oriented civilians dealing with techniques of training.

The program presents a viable alternative for all part-time and full-time soldiers anywhere in the country or abroad who desire to pursue an advanced degree, but lack the opportunity to attend resident schooling. Most of the instruction will be delivered to the student's home via "computer mediated conferencing", also called asynchronous computer conferencing. Computer conferencing allows students to interact with their instructors and each other in an electronic classroom created by networking personal computers.

The Boise ARI office was established in 1985 as a partnership organization charged with exploring new technologies in support of training. Its membership includes representation from the university, OCAR, the National Guard Bureau, the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command and the Idaho National Guard. A major project of the group has been to develop and test a concept of computer conferencing as a means of delivering training to RC soldiers at remote locations.

The per-credit-hour fee includes telecommunications costs. For further information, contact *Mark Eisley, Program Director, Instructional Technology, Boise State University, 1910 University Drive, Boise, ID 83725* or call toll-free at (800)-824-7017, extension 1312.

Steroid users come under scrutiny

Washington, D.C. — Testing of randomly selected urine specimens to detect anabolic steroid use by soldiers began last October as a result of a Department of Defense policy handed down to all services.

The Army began a command-directed testing of soldiers suspected of anabolic steroid abuse in January 1990, according to Maj. John Algner, who serves with the human resources division in the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel at the Pentagon. The testing zeroes in on soldiers involved in specific types of athletic competition, including interservice, national and international events.

The ultimate objective of the testing is to deter steroid use, determine the extent of the problem, and counsel those who may test positive. The Army's policy focuses on education against anabolic steroid use and requires soldiers with positive test results to undergo a medical evaluation and receive counseling.

The U.S. Drug and Alcohol Operations Agency oversees the program.

Adverse reactions to prolonged use of anabolic steroids may include liver cysts and tumors, jaundice, infertility, breast and prostate enlargement, blood lipid changes, elevated blood pressure, depression, joint disease and states of rage.

Oops... say again all after?

It seems we've been having a little trouble printing correct telephone numbers.

For those of you who tried to contact the toll-free Foreign Area Officer contact phone listed on page 28 of the last issue of *ARMY RESERVE Magazine* and found yourself talking to a well-known purveyor of outdoor equipment, instead . . . well, some days here in Washington, D.C. are better than others for us. What can we say?

The correct toll-free telephone number to reach the FAO gurus is 1-(800) 648-8929 . . . really.

We apologize for any inconvenience the number inversion printed may have caused.

Many astute aviators have also called to let us know that the helicopter pictured on the inside rear cover of our last issue is not a *Huey*, but rather an OH-58 *Kiowa* scout, very likely a "C" model.

We thought we had done our readers a favor by fixing the original caption provided to us so that it no longer identified the aircraft as a UH-60 *Black Hawk* . . . we knew it wasn't a Black Hawk!

An Army Reserve Glossary

The Army, and the Army Reserve, would be speechless without acronyms. Here's a glossary of terms frequently used in **ARMY RESERVE Magazine:**

ADSW — Active Duty for Special Work. Replaces Special Active Duty for Training (SADT) as a duty category. Its primary purpose is to accomplish one-time, short duration projects (up to 179 days) which are vital to the functioning of the Army Reserve. Any training received is an incidental aspect of the tour.

ADT — Active Duty for Training. This type of active duty is performed by any Reservist attending a school, counterpart training or other special training activities.

AGR — Active Guard/Reserve. Army Reservists on full-time active duty in support of Reserve units and programs. The National Guard has a program of the same name, which is administered separately.

ARCOM — Army Reserve Command. One of 21 geographic major Army Reserve commands throughout the U.S. (plus one in Germany). Most (but not all) Army Reserve units are subordinate to an ARCOM, which is commanded by a Reserve major general.

ARPERCEN — Army Reserve Personnel Center in St. Louis, Mo. The nationwide administrative and personnel management center for the Army Reserve. It is the headquarters for AGR, IMA and IRR Reservists.

AR — Army Regulation.

AT — Annual Training. Active duty performed annually (usually for two weeks) by Army Reserve units and by IMA Reservists. IRR members may also perform periods of AT.

CONUSA — CONtinental U.S. Army. The five numbered Army headquarters, which are subordinate to FORSCOM and command Army Reserve units in their respective regions. CONUSAs are commanded by Regular Army lieutenant generals.

DA — Department of the Army. The headquarters of the Army, located in the Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

FORSCOM — Forces Command. The Army specified command headquartered at Ft. McPherson, Ga., which commands virtually all Army Reserve units in the U.S.

FY — Fiscal Year. This is the budgetary and training year for the Army. It starts on Oct. 1 and ends on Sept. 30.

GOCOM — General Officer Command. A unit of the Army Reserve with a general officer commanding, other than an ARCOM or a Division (Training). GOCOMs are functionally organized and are usually identified as a brigade or command.

IDT — Inactive Duty Training. Defined by AR 140-1. The most common example of IDT is weekend drill.

IMA — Individual Mobilization Augmentee. A Reservist who is assigned to an active Army unit or agency with which he or she would mobilize in case of emergency. IMAs normally serve two weeks of AT with their unit of assignment each year.

IRR — Individual Ready Reserve. A Reservist who does not belong to a Reserve unit or hold an IMA assignment. IRR soldiers do not normally drill but may serve tours of ADT. Upon mobilization, IRR soldiers receive orders from ARPERCEN.

MUSARC — Major U.S. Army Reserve Command. The highest level of USAR unit commanded by a Reserve general. All ARCOMs, all Divisions (Training) and any GOCOM with a major general commanding is a MUSARC.

MUTA — Multiple Unit Training Assembly. Commonly known as "weekend drill." The most common form is a MUTA-4, which includes four four-hour unit training assemblies.

OCAR — Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. The agency of the DA staff in Washington responsible for Army Reserve policy and budget matters.

ODCS — Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff — the principal DA staff elements. The last two or three letters tell which one — most commonly seen are ODCSLOG, logistics; ODCSOPS, operations, and ODCSPER, personnel.

PERSCOM — Total Army Personnel Command, formerly Total Army Personnel Agency (TAPA) and Military Personnel Center (MILPERCEN). Located in Alexandria, Va., this agency is the active component counterpart to ARPERCEN, and has some responsibilities affecting the Army Reserve.

RC — Reserve Component. Each branch of the U.S. military services has a regular component and one or more reserve components. The reserve components of the Army are the Army Reserve and the Army National Guard of the U.S.

RFD — Reserve Forces Duty. ROTC cadets/commissionees who are selected by the DA ROTC Accession/Branching Board for reserve forces duty.

SIDPERS — Standard Installation/Division Personnel System. The Army Reserve-wide computerized personnel data base.

Other acronyms are defined when they are used in a story.

New benefits enacted for Voc/Tech training

Washington, D.C. — Congress has authorized education benefits for Reservists under the Chapter 106 program for taking vocational/technical courses. Prior to the enactment of Public Law 101-189, Reservists could receive VA education benefits only if they pursued programs of education at schools offering college degrees.

Beginning on October 1, 1990 however, Reservists who enlist, reenlist, or extend their enlistment for at least six years can receive Chapter 106 benefits for programs of education pursued in approved vocational/technical fields, on-the-job training programs, or correspondence training.

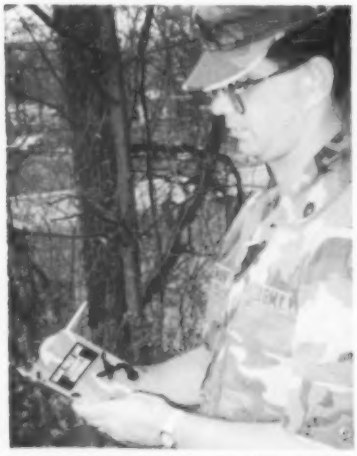
Having a bachelor's degree or higher will no longer *necessarily* disqualify individuals from receiving Chapter 106 benefits, although educational assistance still will not be available for going to graduate school. The Department of Defense will be providing Congress with a report in early 1990 on the costs and benefits of this change in the program. Congress has also directed DoD to study the feasibility of requiring pay witholdings for Reservists under Chapter 106 similar to what is being done for active duty personnel under the Chapter 30 program of the Montgomery GI Bill.

Army Reserve Magazine will run a more comprehensive article on the voc/tech benefits in the next issue.

Leader's Notebook is big hit in field

Atlanta, Ga. — "This booklet is fantastic!"

"Very handy for quick reference in a field environment."



The notebook is printed on heavy-duty water and tear resistant paper making it suitable for field as well as reserve center use.

"This notebook provides a complete profile that enables the NCO to be more effective in unifying the team."

"Thank you very much. It's been very helpful. I've used it many times."

These are just a few of nearly 1,400 comments received from Army Reservists about the *USAR Leader's Notebook*, an Army Reserve Retention tool recently fielded by Forces Command.

An overwhelming 97-percent of the soldiers responding said that the Leader's Notebook is a good tool for leaders.

The 50-page guide provides squad leaders, team leaders, section leaders and others in leadership positions with a pocket reference guide and a place to put important information about their soldiers.

Sections of the notebook are titled "Leading", "Caring", "Training" and "Retaining".

The notebook's pages are coded for easy reference and it is printed on heavy duty, water resistant and erasable paper stock.

Page sizes are standard to allow for the addition of commercially available blank paper stock.

CSM Robert F. Beach, U.S. Forces Command's senior NCO, sent copies to the home addresses of over 75,000 enlisted Reservists in the grades corporal through sergeant first class. This direct mailing expedited delivery to the intended recipients and reduced the administrative burden of units having to distribute the notebooks.

The book may also be ordered via the Retention Publicity Item System (see accompanying article).

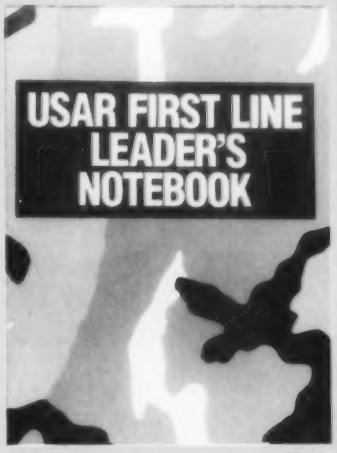
How to get copies of the

The Leader's Notebook is available through the Retention Publicity Item System as RPI #459. USAR units which have RPI accounts may order the notebooks by submitting an RPI requisition card (RPI #99) to:

HQ, USAREC
ATTN: USARCASP-MD (RPI Requisition)
Bldg 48G
Ft. Sheridan, IL 60037-6100

The unit of issue is a package of four books and the maximum quantity which can be ordered each month is four packages, or 16 books.

Units which do not maintain an RPI account, or which require assistance in ordering any RPI materials, should contact their next higher headquarters or the MUSARC Strength Management Office.



The Leader's Notebook was specifically designed for use by the junior NCO who typically does not have desk or storage space for larger publications. A little over three- by five-inches in size, it will fit easily into the BDU pocket, the men's Class A or B shirt pocket or in a purse.

European ARCOM gets first general officer

Garmisch, Germany — The commander of the 7th Army Reserve Command became the first Army Reserve general to head a reserve unit overseas last April.

Richard J. Dirgins received his star from **Lt. Gen. J. M. Shalikashvili,** U.S. Army Europe deputy commander in chief, in a ceremony at Sheridan Kaserne in Garmisch.

The 7th ARCOM, headquartered in Heidelberg, is responsible for all drilling Army Reserve units in Europe. Dirgins has commanded the unit since 1987.

The Connecticut native has been a member of the Army Reserve program in Europe since 1964. In 1981 he was appointed commandant of the 3745th U.S. Army Reserve School in Munich and in 1984 be took command of the 3747th U.S. Army Reserve School in Frankfurt.

He became deputy commander of the 7th ARCOM in February 1985 and assumed command of the Europe-wide reserve unit in December 1987.

A veteran of six years of active duty and 24 years of reserve service, Dirgins, as a civilian, is president of a marketing and financial service company in Welden, Germany. He is also the first Army Reservist to be awarded the Bundeswehr's Distinguished Service Medal in Silver from the Federal Republic.

Col. Richard J. Dirgins became the first Army Reserve general to head an overseas USAR unit when he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general last spring by Lt. Gen. John M. Shalikashvili. Pictured after the promotion are, left to right, Karen Dirgins, eldest daughter; Lt. Gen. Shalikashvili; Brig. Gen. Dirgins; his wife, Christa, and youngest daughter, Elizabeth. (U.S. Army photo)

Officers selected for exchange program

Washington, D.C. — Each year, 20 U.S. reserve components' officers perform duty with West German military units, under an exchange program between the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs and the German Ministry of Defense.

Additionally, this year marked the first exchange between the U.S. and the United Kingdom. Six U.S. reserve component officers trained in the U.K. during August. According to defense officials, the size of the U.K. exchange will likely double next year.

Army Reserve officers selected for this year's exchange with Germany are **Lt. Col. J. Sheppard Rilovick,** IMA with the Army Corps of Engineer's San Francisco District Office; **Lt. Col. Homer H. Reeves,** 87th MAC, Birmingham, Ala. and **Maj. Charles L. Ingram,** 108th Div. (Tng), Asheboro, N.C. Also among the selectees were **Maj. Dennis McGlone,** 365th Engineer Bn., Schuylkil Haven, Pa.; **Maj. James F. Reynolds,** 365th Station Hosp., Helena, Mont. and **Maj. Robert A. Pollmann,** 367th Engineer Bn., Ft. Snelling, Minn.

This year, the German officers trained in the U.S. during the first two weeks in June.

The Army Reserve officer selected to take part in the first U.S./U.K. exchange was **Maj. Richard S. Bordwell** from the 103rd Corps Support Command in Des Moines, Iowa.

OCAR, through FORSCOM, solicits applications for the program each year from TPU officers. Ideal participants are lieutenant colonels or majors with "operational" experience, who are members of a unit having a mobilization mission to Europe. The exchange training lasts two to four weeks, with emphasis on hands-on, "dirty boot" training.

Officers interested in the program should direct inquiries to: *U.S. Army Reserve Support Center, ATTN: DARP-NC-TSO, 1815 N. Fort Myer Drive, Arlington, VA 22209-1805.*

MacDonald named top recruiter

Ft. Sheridan, Ill. — SFC Bruce MacDonald has been named the *Army Reserve Recruiter of the Year* by the Army Recruiting Command at Fort Sheridan, Ill.

MacDonald, an El Paso, Texas-raised son of an Army officer, went to the final competition at recruiting headquarters after winning the 1st Recruiting Brigade competition at Ft. Meade, Md.

MacDonald, a 14-year Army veteran (both active and reserve), has served as an Army Reserve recruiter at the Syracuse, N.Y., Army Recruiting Station since the summer of 1987.

The Defense Language Institute graduate is a Russian linguist, and has served at Ft. Devens, Mass., Ft. Hood, Texas, and Okinawa, Japan. He is also trained in telecommunications.

SFC Bruce MacDonald

Reserve's role in WESTCOM's Expanded

Ft. Shafter, Hawaii — The U.S. Army's Western Command, or WESTCOM, is the Army element of the Pacific Command and, as such, has the largest geographic area of responsibility of any Army major command anywhere in the world today. Roughly stated, its area runs from our west coast to the east coast of Africa and from the Arctic Circle in the north to the Antarctic Circle in the south.

It sits squarely astride critical lines of communication between the rapidly developing Pacific rim nations and the mainland U.S.

The command's Expanded Relations Program was initiated in 1978 and is aimed at fostering friendly, army-to-army professional relations with ground forces of friendly and allied countries in the Pacific Command's area.

The current program involves regular interactions with some 30 countries in such far-flung nations as Brunei, Kiribati and Sri

Kiribati's a long way from the Great Smokies

by 1st Lt. Dan Smith and Bill Peoples

Christmas Island, Rep. of Kiribati — White sandy beaches, beautiful blue skies, coconut trees and exotic scenery paint a picture of a tropical paradise.

Tropical paradise was where members of C and D Companies of the 844th Engineer Battalion, 125th ARCOM spent their Annual Training.

Each Company sent a 50-man cell to Christmas Island, in the Republic of Kiribati (pronounced Kiribas), to build a school, medical clinic and hospital for the Gilbertese people of Christmas Island. The exercise, code-named *Exercise Valentine*, was conducted late in the summer of 1989.

Although the engineers of the 844th were in a Pacific paradise, they were not on vacation. *Valentine* was a humanitarian exercise for the residents of Christmas Island and Reservists spent many hours and long days working on the three projects.

Long before the troops departed Tennessee, the ARCOM staff, along with the 844th's Commander, Lt. Col. Larry Lingerfelt, and his staff had expended many hours coordinating the exercise to ensure that the necessary construction materials would be in place when the engineers arrived.

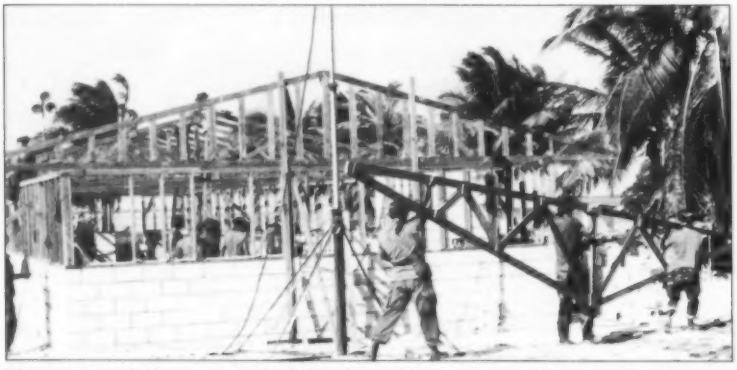
Christmas Island is a bit off the beaten path. Located 2,000 miles south of Honolulu and 110 miles north of the equator, the island was used in the 1950s and '60s as a test site for U.S. and British hydrogen bomb tests. No residual radiation was left by the airbursts and Christmas Island is now home to about 12,000 people who derive most of their income from exporting fish and copra (dried coconut). The island is also known for its great sport fishing.

The first cell, composed of men from C Company, started work upon arrival.

"We jumped off the back of the truck and started pouring concrete. We poured 42 (cubic) yards of concrete the first two and a half days," said Capt. Jerry Duncan, commander of C Company, whose normal area of operations is Greeneville, Tenn.

C Company was tasked with the overall

see 'Kiribati' on page 10



Members of D Company, 844th Engineer Bn., move roof trusses for the new hospital into place during the early stages of construction.

(Photo by 1st Lt. Dan Smith)

Army Reserve

by Lt.Col. Jim Nielsen

For three days in February, the full force of Hurricane Ofa pounded the South Pacific island of American Samoa. Fifteen foot waves on a high tide carried boulders into schools, homes and churches, smashing and destroying everything.

High winds tore roofs from houses, toppled power lines and uprooted thousands of trees. Entire seaside villages were destroyed. Homes were shattered in place, or blown off foundations their contents carried out to sea.

"At noon the high tide tore through our houses," said storm victim Luaipua Peloga of Onenoa village. "We told people to move for safety." Two hundred villagers fled for the church, but soon faced danger again. "The waves — the high tide — went through the church. The chairs . . . all the chairs tossing, it looked like a disco," he said.

"Thank God nobody died. Forget about the things that were lost! No one died," said Peloga. When the storm clouds receded and the first sun broke through to reveal the awesome damage, soldiers from the Army Reserve's Samoa-based B Company, 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry fell out to volunteer their time and labor to help rebuild.

"We asked for volunteers to help clear storm debris," said 1st. Lt. Kyle Keomalu, company commander, "and the next day the company showed up in uniform. We worked for several days clearing the runway and roads leading to the airport."

Help arrives

With the airport reopened, engineers from U.S. Army Western Command in Hawaii brought in power generators and equipment to help restore power to the island. They were followed by U.S. Navy SeaBees from Guam who arrived to reinstall damaged power and telephone lines.

When Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) officials reached Onenoa village to survey the damaged homes, they found all 200 villagers living out of the two remaining houses sheltered behind the church. The villagers' situation was repeated across

Relations Program increasing rapidly

Lanka and is an integral part of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific's strategy and the Army International Activities Plan.

The ERP interactions involve active and reserve component individuals and units and include the annual Pacific Armies Management Seminar, senior officer reciprocal visits, staff information exchanges, individual training and unilateral and combined small unit (below battalion-level) training.

The exchanges, which even include band visits, are designed to stress the human dimension of the contacts and are carried out in addition to regularly scheduled exercises and security assistance activities.

This issue of *ARMY RESERVE Magazine* features several articles concerning activities in which Reservists have played major roles in WESTCOM's Expanded Relations Program.

ebuilds American Samoa after hurricane

the island, and disaster officials recommended the Army Reserve be fully mobilized to aid in the disaster relief.

"We stopped short of full mobilization, said Tolani Teleso, local businessman and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army. "We called up individuals, so those with civilian jobs vital to the recovery wouldn't be affected.

"Fifty-three reservists were ordered to active duty for 30 days, and teams of soldiers were dispatched to villages throughout the island to open roads and clear storm damage. Red Cross officials brought tents to the reserve center for distribution and FEMA ordered hundreds of tarps for temporary roofing.

Once officials completed the survey of villages and identified houses for repair, ten teams of five soldiers and five civilians each moved out to install the roof tarps on the

see 'Ofa' page 10

U.S. and Singapore conclude military exercise

Singapore — United States and Singapore soldiers concluded a week-long joint military training exercise in September, at the Armed Forces Wargame Center at Camp Jurong, Singapore.

The training exercise, named *Tiger Balm '89*, is held each year by the two nations, and is viewed as important in developing and expanding relationships between the two armies, according to a Singapore Armed Force spokesman.

"*Tiger Balm* widens our vision," said Col. Colin Theseira, commander of Singapore's 6th Infantry Division. "We learn from the U.S., and they, in turn, learn from us."

The exercise was a simulated wargame, conducted by senior military staff officers who were challenged by computer-generated situations and a highly skilled team of officers who simulated enemy tactics. The computer battles were conducted in a fictional country and featured an offensive operation with a U.S. Army and Singapore Army brigade fighting side-by-side in a coordinated attack.

Although Singapore is a non-aligned nation, it sees the joint exercise as improving its military capability as a partner with Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. These nations form the regional Five Power Defense Pact.

U.S. participants came from U.S. Army Western Command, Ft. Shafter, Hawaii and include Army Reservists from IXth Corps in Hawaii, and National Guard soldiers from the 73rd Infantry Brigade in Columbus, Ohio.

"The soldiers from the Army Reserve and National Guard make this exercise happen. The same holds true for the Singapore Army," said Col. Jerry Childers, exercise deputy director and WESTCOM chief of operations. "I know of no other U.S. military operation like it."

"This is our preeminent exchange with Singapore," said Lt. Col. Margaret Novack, WESTCOM Reserve Component Training Officer, "and its value for us is immeasureable." Novack spoke of the personal friendships and understandings that come from the continuing relationships between the two armies.

"You come to overlook the differences and build on the commonalities of language and culture," she added. "They are soldiers, we are soldiers, and its gratifying to be involved and to form these very close bonds."

The 1085th Training Exercise Maneuver Group, an Army Reserve unit from Ft. DeRussy played a key role in developing the scenario for the wargame exercise. The staff coordinated the training goals of the Singapore and U.S. Army player units, reviewed the Mission Essential Task Lists (METL), and wrote the exercise to meet those goals.

"It helps us to work together. Interoperability is the key word for us," said Lt. Col. G.Y. Wee, a battalion commander in the Singapore Army.

Gathered around the main Tiger Balm battle board are (left to right) Maj. Mejar Singh Gill, Maj. Clement Hendricks, and Capt. Kuldip Singh, all of the Singapore armed forces and Capt. Robert M. Pence, Ohio Army National Guard.

(Photo by Lt. Col. Jim Nielsen)

Ofa continued from previous page

damaged homes.

"It was the only shelter many people had," said Spec. Sofa Samuelo, a unit member and school vice-principal.

Call for rescue

On February 24 the island's reserve center received a call for volunteers to take the cable tram car across Pago Pago harbor to the towering summit of Mount Alava.

"We were told to bring ropes," said Spec. Lepapamatietie Hunkin but it was only when we got to the cable car did the police tell us what situation we were facing.

"A 72-year-old television engineer had been working on the summit transmitter when he fell 200 hundred feet down a nearly vertical slope. The police were unprepared to conduct a mountain rescue and had asked the Army Reserve to help. The six Bravo Company soldiers roped up and rappelled down the slope while two other WESTCOM soldiers strapped the injured man into a litter. Then they began the long, treacherous climb back to the summit, pulling the victim behind them.

When the team was asked where they learned mountaineering techniques, PFC Leo Tafua replied "We didn't! We rappelled in Basic Training and learned how to tie a 'swiss seat', but this is a first for us. We've never done anything like this before."

"It was scary," said Spec. Richard Samuelu, "but we knew the guy would die if we didn't do it. Everyone else waited at the top of the mountain for us to get there. Even the police were expecting us to go down and get him. But it feels good to save a life. We all feel great."

The rescuers of Mount Alava are (left to right) Spec. Richard Samuelu, Spec. L. Hunkin, PFC T.P. Manase, Spec. Leo Tafua and Pvt. 2. Selu Fiame.

(Photo by Lt. Col. Jim Nielsen)

For their courage and skill the six soldiers: Hunkin, Tafua, Samuelu, and PFC Tutuila Manase, PFC Robert Godinet and Pvt. Selu Fiame were each awarded the Army Achievement Medal.

The reservists and SeaBees completed their work in mid-March and were honored by the territorial government with a Samoan feast held in a special ceremonial house or 'fale' outside the legislature. The President of the Senate read an official proclamation declaring the gratitude of the people and government of American Samoa.

Teleso remarked that at no time since the end of World War II had the Army Reserve and the military made such an enormous impact on the island. "Wearing the uniform in American and Western Samoa today will bring you much honor by the people," he said.

It is clear that the soldiers of Bravo Company feel an even greater honor in having been able to help their community and their territory with skill, training and support in time of overwhelming crisis.

(Lt. Col. Nielsen is assigned as an AGR Public Affairs Officer with U.S. Army Western Command, Ft. Shafter, Hawaii)

Kiribati continued from previous page

construction of the school and medical clinic, though they completed these projects and began on the hospital. The clinic presented the largest challenge. "The medical clinic was built about 38 miles from where we were located, but it took us a half a day to get there. I'm talking about going through remote areas, through jungle," said Duncan.

The construction work was beneficial training for the soldiers of the 844th since it used the skills of their carpenters, plumbers, and electricians and allowed the very skilled soldiers of the unit to teach the younger soldiers the necessary skills to complete the mission.

"We learned that we don't have to have all of our equipment to complete the mission. We found out that we could improvise and make do with what we had and still do a good job, if not a better job," said Duncan.

The airplane which brought the second cell to Christmas Island also left with the members of the first cell aboard, since the island has only one weekly scheduled flight between it and Hawaii.

Once on the ground, D Company's main responsibility was to complete the hospital. Of the three projects, the hospital was the most detailed.

"All the men volunteered for this mission. They were willing to do anything and to suffer whatever hardship there was. The men came with an attitude that whatever had to be done was going to be done on the day they leave," said Capt. Billy L. Ridley, commander of the Kingsport, Tenn.-based company.

They not only made buildings, they also made friends. "The people were very happy with what they had; even though by our standards they didn't have [much]. That always touches and does something for me, and I'm sure it did for all the men involved. It makes you appreciate what we've got here in the U.S.," said Ridley.

The culmination of all the hard work were the ceremonies turning over the new facilities to the islanders. Brig. Gen. Kenneth A. Bouldin, deputy commander of the 125th ARCOM, was the official U.S. Government representative. The Republic of Kiribati was represented by the Honorable Tekinaiti Kaiteie, Minister of the Line and Phoenix Group, who is also a resident of Christmas Island. The island's physician, Dr. Taketiau Beriki also participated in the ceremonies.

(1st Lt. Smith is assigned to HHC, 844th Engineer Bn. in Knoxville, Tenn. and Bill Peoples is the Public Affairs Specialist for the 125th ARCOM, Nashville, Tenn.)

ARMY RESERVE '90

The Army Reserve plays a challenging role in the Total Army. This report explains the challenges, and the actions being taken to help meet them.

Introduction

The United States Army Reserve is an organization of approximately 600,000 men and women dedicated to the defense of our nation. It is one of three components which, along with the Active Army and the Army National Guard, makes up the United States Army. Our mission is to organize, train and equip our units and individual soldiers, preparing them to help defend our nation with little or no advance notice.

During the past several years the Army Reserve has undertaken a number of projects aimed at bringing its capabilities in line with its responsibilities. They have affected everything from force structure to automation and from personnel management to overseas deployment training. By implementing the latest Army standards, by realigning organizations and by managing closely both personnel and financial resources, the Army Reserve has become an even more effective force.

Along with this, we have continued to do the things necessary to keep soldiers interested and involved in the Army Reserve and to keep the Army Reserve family strong.

This report summarizes the significant programs, some of them continuing, and some of them new, that have taken place during the last year. It should provide a good picture of where we are now and our future direction.

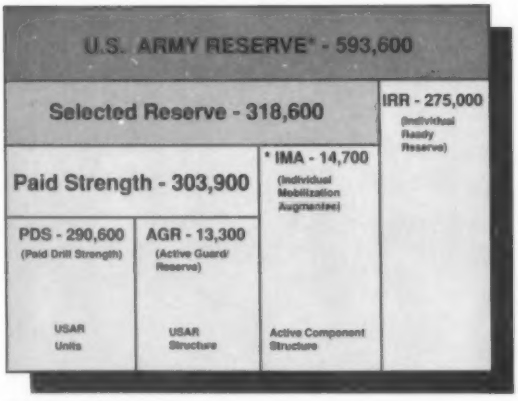
Management

The cost effectiveness of the reserve components is one of the keys to maintaining Total Army readiness in the face of reduced defense dollars. Although Army Reservists make up 24 percent of the Total Army structure, the Army Reserve budget is only slightly more than four percent of the Total Army's budget.

Most Army Reserve troop program units are under the command of U.S. Forces Command (FORSCOM), headquartered at Ft. McPherson, Ga.; Western Command (WESTCOM) in Hawaii; the U.S. Army Special

Operations Command (USASOC) at Ft. Bragg, NC; and U.S. Army Europe in Germany. Most Army Reserve units also are part of the CAPSTONE program. This program aligns active and reserve component units which would mobilize together for planning and training purposes.

Non-unit soldiers come under the U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN), in St. Louis, Mo., a field operating agency of the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve (OCAR). These soldiers include Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) members, who would serve as replacements to Army units in the event of a mobilization, and Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA), who would fill key staff



*As of September 30, 1989

positions upon mobilization.

By law, the Chief, Army Reserve, also serves as the advisor to the Chief of Staff, Army on Army Reserve matters.

Reserve Unit End Strength

In Fiscal Year (FY) 89 drill strength was somewhat lower than projected because of unexpectedly high attrition rates, personnel turbulence and over-reliance on prior service accessions. To address this, in FY 89 OCAR reviewed and adjusted personnel strength levels and also put greater emphasis on a variety of recruiting and retention incentives, such as the Montgomery GI Bill, enlistment, affiliation, and retention bonuses, health professions incentives programs and the student loan repayment program. As a result of these initiatives, the FY 89 paid drill end strength was 290,612, an increase of over 4000 from Fiscal Year 88.

Full-Time Support

The full-time support program continues to be valuable to the Army Reserve. Made up of Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) soldiers, active component (AC), Army Reserve technicians and Federal Civil Service employees, the FTS force provides day-to-day direct and indirect support to units. They perform administrative, planning, maintenance, training, recruiting and instructional functions so that unit members can make the most of scarce training time.

The end strengths for FY 89 for the four categories of FTS were approximately 1200 AC, 13,300 AGR, 8500 technicians and 4600 Civil Service employees. Of these, approximately 17,500 AGRs and technicians, are working directly in support of troop program units.

A significant event in the management of the full-time support program took place in February 1989 when OCAR assumed operational control of the AGR Management Directorate from ARPERCEN, renaming it the Full-Time Support Management Center. This will allow OCAR a greater role in developing the FTS program, which is growing rapidly and is critical to increasing mobilization readiness.

Personnel Management

Personnel management encountered another challenge in FY 89 because of budget constraints. To comply with DOD-imposed funding limitations, the Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) became the central authority for all assignments of commissioned and warrant officers to troop program units except for reassignments within the same Major U.S. Army Reserve Command (MUSARC). As a result, assignments to TPUs from the IRR have decreased, and assignments to the IRR have increased, with lieutenants assigned to

the IRR for a greater period of time before going to units. The effect has been to increase IRR mobilization readiness dramatically.

Construction Management

Management of the Military Construction Army Reserve (MCAR) program continues to be a challenge. The Army Reserve facilities goal is to improve force readiness by providing and maintaining adequate training and support facilities. However, because unit activations, resulting from mission transfers from the active component, have increased without appropriate facilities to support them, the Army Reserve military construction backlog stands at $2.3 billion. Construction projects funded for FY 89 included a regional medical training site, a regional maintenance training site, the expansion and alteration of 14 Army Reserve centers, and construction of several Armed Forces Reserve centers and a number of maintenance and storage facilities.

Total Force

The Army Reserve provides 53 percent of the Total Army's combat support elements, such as military police, military intelligence and signal units, and combat service support units, including transportation, supply, maintenance and medical units. In some areas, such as reserve forces schools, civil affairs units and psychological operations units, more than 85 percent of the Army's assets are in the Reserve.

Army Reserve units also include general support forces (training divisions) and combat units, such as infantry, artillery, combat engineers and aviation.

Special Operations Forces

Because of the increased need for the Army to respond to special operations/low intensity conflict (SOLIC) situations, active and reserve special operations forces (SOF) units have received greater attention recently. Command and control channels are being streamlined with the assignment of Army Reserve SOF units to the U.S. Army Spe-

cial Operations Command (USASOC) at Ft. Bragg, N.C., which is the Army's newest Major Army Command (MACOM). As a result, special forces (SF), civil affairs (CA), psychological operations (PSYOPS) and special forces aviation units will gain from more mission-related training and clearer lines of command and control.

Training and Readiness

Readiness in the Army Reserve has improved more than 17 percent over the last five years. Higher personnel strengths and increased levels of skill qualification also have contributed to the overall improvement in readiness even though a substantial number of new units have been added to the force as a result of structure changes.

IRR Screening

Individual Ready Reservists (IRR) participated in the ongoing screening program to determine their availability and readiness. During FY 89 approximately 58,000 IRR soldiers performed one day's active duty to update records, resulting in more than 94,000 changes to the data base. (Approximately 15 percent of the IRR soldiers who might have participated did not because of end-of-year budget shortfalls.) Of those, more than 6900 chose to upgrade their status by joining Army Reserve or National Guard units, becoming Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) or returning to active duty. This is in addition to more than 20,000 other prior service soldiers who have chosen either to join a unit or the IMA program following IRR screenings in previous years. Moreover, screening-generated corrections to the data base have given mobilization planners greater confidence in their data and their ability to recall Reservists.

IRR Training

Although OCAR aims much of the training effort at unit members, IRR soldiers are not ignored. They are a valuable mobilization asset, so maintaining their skills is important. Their primary training vehicles are various readiness, refresher and professional development programs that provide skill-oriented sustainment training and career development commensurate with the soldier's grade and mobilization skill. IRR soldiers also have the option of participating in Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) support tours, which allow the soldiers to use their previously acquired skills and make a valuable contribution to the Army Reserve mission.

Overseas Training

Overseas deployment training (ODT) is one of the Reserve's greatest success stories. During FY 89, 1100 Army Reserve units or cells participated in ODT in Europe, Southwest Asia, Korea, Japan, Latin America and other areas. Not only does this training provide valuable experience for the soldiers, but it also serves as a major retention incentive.

Highlights of current ODT include continued participation in Fuertes Caminos, the roadbuilding exercise in Honduras, various civic action, nation-building and human-

itarian exercises and a number of other projects which provide real-world logistics, communications, engineer and health care experience.

A new training opportunity for reserve component heavy equipment maintenance companies (HEMCO) is being tested through FY 90. This year the first Army Reserve HEMCO did its annual training in Germany to perform an intermediate general support maintenance mission. Under this program, the units train by taking over a portion of U.S. Army Europe's (USAREUR) maintenance requirement, working on various kinds of equipment. The test, if judged successful, will become a permanent mission that will provide exceptionally good training for the Reservists and very cost-effective maintenance for USAREUR.

Participation in exercises such as REFORGER in Europe, Bright Star in the Middle East, Team Spirit in Korea, and Northern Viking in Iceland give Reservists a firsthand opportunity to see the terrain and experience the climatic conditions where they might deploy if mobilized. It also allows them to work with their counterparts in allied armies and to test the plans they have developed as part of their stateside training.

Skill Training

One of the initiatives which should reduce turbulence and improve personnel strength and skill training is establishing regional training centers. Regional training sites for medical and maintenance personnel give them access to equipment they need to maintain competence in their specialities but that is not available at their units. Similarly, military intelligence personnel will soon have regional training sites (RTS-I), also known as consolidated training facilities (CTF), in each Army area where they can go for MOS training.

Medical Readiness

More than 7000 Army Reserve medical personnel conducted "Orchid Sage '89" at Ft. Drum, N.Y., this year. This was one of the largest medical field exercises ever conducted in the United States. It tested theater level medical treatment and evacuation procedures by inserting more than 4200 moulaged battlefield casualties into the medical system. It also gave four units an opportunity to deploy and use the Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS) that are being issued now to medical units DOD-wide.

New Equipment

Army Reserve readiness has benefited from the Army's equipment distribution plan to bring all forward-deployed and early-deploying units to a C-2 (80 percent) level of equipment fill and all remaining deployable forces to a C-3 (65 percent) level. This plan has brought much of the equipment needed for training and operations into many different kinds of units.

Other factors are that Army Reserve units are now receiving a higher priority for new equipment and the Congressionally directed Army Reserve Dedicated Procurement Program, which permits the purchase of equipment that is not otherwise available.

Several specific equipment-related initiatives are underway to increase the availability of equipment units needed for training. The first of these is the Minimum Essential Equipment for Training (MEET) Program, which distributes equipment necessary for mobilization and deployment training. As of August 1989, 25 percent of the required items had been issued to units.

Medical training is benefiting from the issue of Deployable Medical Systems (DEPMEDS) to medical units. The Army began fielding DEPMEDS in FY 87, and by 1996 the Army Reserve units should have 94 of the 156 sets being purchased by the Army. DEPMEDS will give medical personnel the latest in medical technology and equipment.

The Army Reserve is in line to receive several other tactical systems within the next few years. These include the High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV), M939 Series 5-ton trucks, T-9 bulldozers, Improved TOW Vehicles, M3A4 Smoke Generators, AN/VDR-2 Radiac Meters, XM-17 Decontamination Apparatus, the Tactical Army CSS Computer System, the Small Unit Support Vehicle (SUSV), and the 9mm Pistol. In fact, some units have already started receiving some of these items.

Aviation

The Army Reserve aviation force continues to develop into a more capable war-

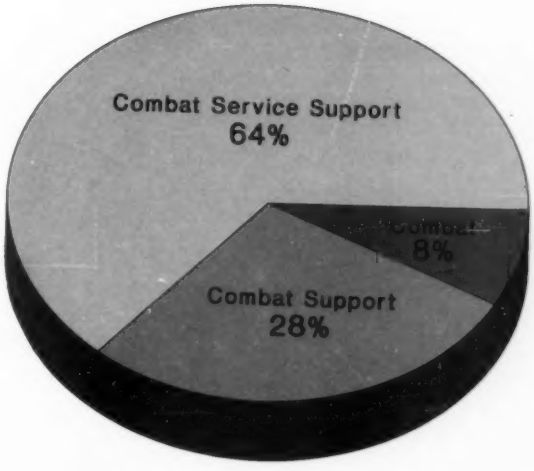
Army Reserve Units

Definitions

Combat:
- Infantry
- Armor
- Cavalry (air and armored)
- Artillery

Combat Support:
- Aviation
- Engineer
- Military Police
- Signal
- Military Intelligence
- Chemical
- Special Operations Forces

Combat Service Support:
- Administrative Services
- Chaplain Services
- Supply
- Transportation
- Logistics
- Medical Services



fighting asset. The Army Reserve now has an aviation structure that gives the Total Army an array of corps and theater aviation assets that are true force multipliers.

The introduction of attack and assault helicopter battalions and attack and combat aviation group headquarters provides a structure that fits both peacetime and wartime needs and gives the units the leadership they need to direct them to the highest states of readiness. It also gives our aviators career development opportunities that will enhance their skills, challenge them professionally and motivate them to stay in the Army Reserve. Our aviation units will benefit from the Army's Aviation Modernization Plan (AAMP), as well. Two attack helicopter battalions were activated this year, and the plan includes the conversion of our corps level attack helicopter battalions from the AH-1 Cobra to the AH-64 Apache in the near future.

The AAMP also calls for reducing the number of Army Reserve UH-1 Iroquois and OH-58 Kiowa aircraft, and the concurrent reduction in the size of some units so they can convert to UH-60 Blackhawk units. The remaining Hueys will be modernized.

Modernization under both the AAMP and the Army of Excellence (AOE) concept has significant resource and training implications. Aviators and maintenance personnel need to meet new qualifications, facilities need updating, careful planning is necessary to minimize personnel turbulence, and OCAR needs to maintain an appropriate level of full-time support (FTS) to ensure essential aircraft maintenance, training and support.

PSYOPS Modernization

Application of AOE structure to SOF units is now underway. Existing PSYOPS units will begin the process of conversion to the new design, and the activation of new units will substantially increase the PSYOPS structure. Also, the depot maintenance program continues to upgrade PSYOPS modular print plant equipment, and OCAR plans to expand that program to include on-site visits to all Army Reserve PSYOPS units having light, medium and heavy printing plants to ensure that they maintain their equipment in a high state of readiness.

While many equipment readiness problems have been or are in the process of being fixed, the USAR continues to concentrate on the personnel, skill training and management areas.

Intelligence Unit Enhancements

The conversion of some Army Reserve Military Intelligence assets to the AOE combat electronic warfare and intelligence (CEWI) design continues. It will ultimately include units supporting divisions, corps and separate brigades in both the active and the reserve components.

Mobilization Readiness

All of these changes are designed to

bring the Army Reserve more in line with the Active Army and increase its ability to mobilize rapidly. However, equipment, training and organizational issues are not the only concerns. The best trained, best equipped soldiers, reserve or active, can not mobilize to an overseas location without having fulfilled a number of basic requirements, including testing or the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), having dental panographic X-rays for identification, and other pre-mobilization actions.

Reservists are tested biannually for HIV. Those going onto active duty for 30 days or more, CONUS or OCONUS, and those participating in overseas training must have an HIV screening with negative results prior to the training. They also must have duplicate copies of a dental panographic X-ray and a Dental Health Record (DHR) on file before they deploy.

People

Professional development, personnel management and family support are three more areas in which the Army Reserve is moving to ensure greater opportunities and satisfaction for each citizen-soldier. The Army Reserve has made great strides in insuring that its soldiers receive the education they need to be successful at their MOS and also

at being able to take advantage of the benefits that go along with being a Reservist.

Professional Development

The Professional Development Army Reserve (PDAR) program will ensure Reservists of the schooling and assignments they should have to develop fully. The program began this year with plans for company grade officers and command sergeants major and will include all ranks by the end of FY 95.

One of the goals of PDAR is to train Reservists prior to assignment, rather than after. Further, by aligning the management of training resources with personnel assignments, PDAR will provide Army Reserve soldiers who are better prepared to take their place in the

Total Army when mobilized. OCAR is working closely with TRADOC and other elements of the Army staff to refine training strategies to meet this goal.

Training Management

Training continues to be the main peacetime business of the Army Reserve, from individual to unit, and from weekend Inactive Duty Training (IDT) to overseas deployment training (ODT). Management and planning for

training have become more important than ever because of increased training requirements.

As the emphasis on readiness has increased, so has the need for better trained and better qualified soldiers. This has resulted in making school training available to more Reservists, both enlisted and officer. The Army Reserve is moving towards a fully centralized school training management system for all resident in-service Active Duty for Training (ADT) school requirements. This system will manage and allocate training quotas centrally, publish and fund orders, and support the resident school training needs of units, AGR and IRR soldiers.

Educational Requirements

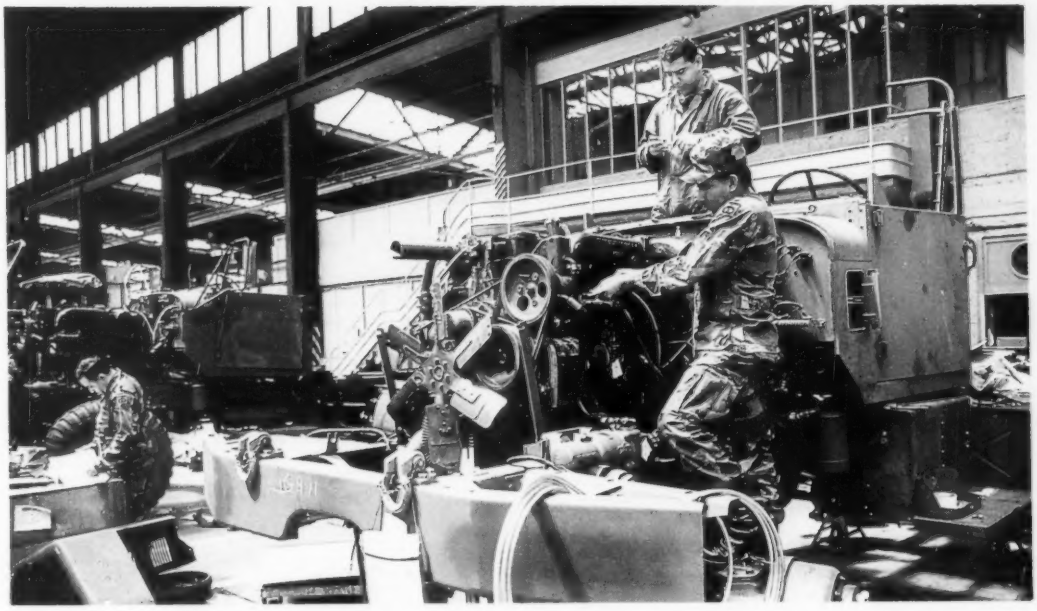
Professional development for officers, NCOs and warrant officers has become even more demanding. Reserve officers have the same education requirements as their active duty counterparts, from the officer basic course through senior service school completion. Similarly, all Army Reserve NCOs must complete Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) courses for their current grade before being considered for promotion to the next higher grade. This reflects a major effort to enhance military occupation specialty (MOS) and leadership skills, and it presents a challenge for the Army to configure the NCOES program to the Reserve environment.

Army Reserve NCOs

Appropriately, education ties very closely into this year's Army theme, "The NCO." Army Reserve NCOs are finding themselves more responsible for training junior soldiers and unit mobilization planning. Their dual role as leaders in the Reserve and in their communities typifies the citizen-soldier ideal. They bring many useful civilian acquired skills to the Army Reserve, and the Reserve, in return, gives them leadership skills they can use in their civilian lives.

Special Programs

There are several other programs available to Reservists that provide much-needed training in specific skills. These include military intelligence programs, foreign language training and refresher courses, continuing health education, the ground liaison team



program and others.

Family Support Program

Another aspect of deployment the Army Reserve is working on is providing a comprehensive family support program so that the Reservist's dependents are familiar with their benefits, have ID cards, commissary privilege cards, are pre-enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System and are otherwise able to function while the Reservist is away.

Medical Recruiting

One of the most critical areas in Army Reserve recruiting right now is attracting medical personnel. The reserve components provide 70 percent of the Total Army's medical support for mobilization. Of this, 82 percent of the nurses, 50 percent of the physicians and 49 percent of the medical enlisted soldiers required by the Army are in the Army Reserve. The number of health care professionals needed to meet these requirements puts the Army Reserve in direct competition with civilian health care organizations that can offer much higher pay, especially to certain physician and nursing specialties.

However, several programs targeting certain wartime combat skills have improved the situation significantly. The Health Professional Loan Repayment program provides educational loan repayment to health professionals

in the Selected Reserve serving in shortage combat medical skills. Another program, the National Army Medical Augmentation Detachment overcomes geographical boundaries by recruiting physicians and nurses where they are available, assigning them to vacancies in USAR units worldwide and designing flexible training that fits their specialty and schedule.

The Specialized Training Assistance Program (STRAP) pays a monthly stipend to reservists training in anesthesiology, general surgery, orthopedic surgery, medical-surgical nursing, operating room nursing and nurse anesthesia.

The Specialized Training for Army Readiness (STAR) program enables slected USAR enlisted medical soldiers the opportunity to acquire Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in some medical technician specialties by attending civilian educational institutions at government expense.

Additionally, a new initiative, the Medical Recruiting Bonus Test, incorporates bonuses for Selective Reserve commitments by physicians and nurses in critical wartime specialties.

Summary

The high quality of Army Reserve soldiers, the improved skill and leadership training they receive, newer equipment, more automated systems, better management and increased full-time support have raised the Army Reserve to a new level of readiness as part of the Total Army.

Today's Army Reserve is the best in its history. Our challenge is to ensure that we nurture it and guide it successfully into the future.

This special report was prepared by the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve, Public Affairs Office, ATTN: DAAR-PA, Washington, D.C. 20310. Individual copies of this report are available free of charge by writing to this office. All photos are property of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Sparkling training available at regional training sites

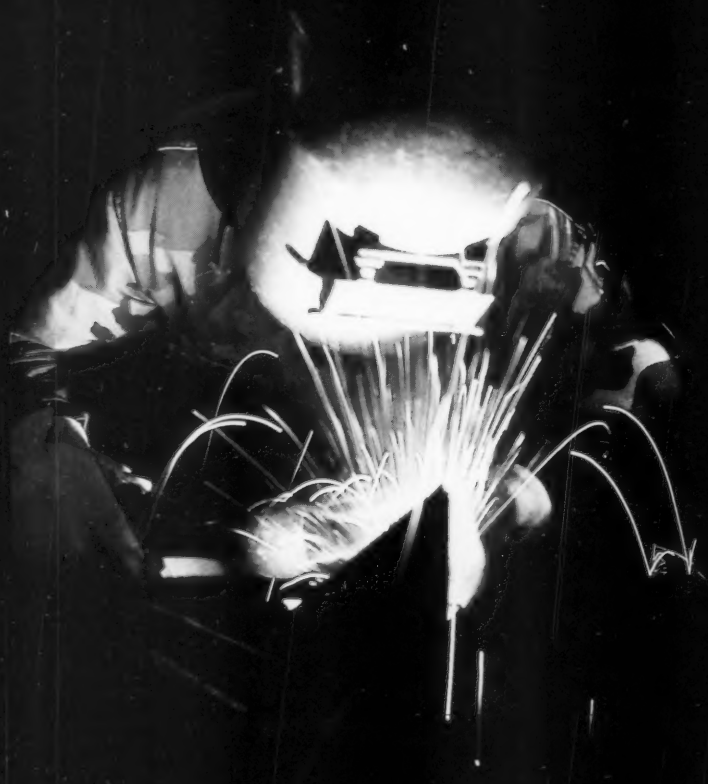


Photo by SSgt. Dave Zerbe

by Maj. Joe McLaughlin

Arlington, Va. — During the 1980's, the Army added a great deal of new equipment to its inventory. Abrams Tanks, Bradley Fighting Vehicles, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), and satellite communications equipment are just a few of these new items.

This equipment increased the ability of the Army to fight, but also created problems in maintaining this sophisticated gear.

Maintenance personnel needed to be trained on how to maintain and repair the modern items of equipment in the shortest possible time.

Training an active duty soldier is not that difficult. The soldier could attend a formal school and then gain further experience with hands-on training with the equipment at his unit.

However, training reserve component soldiers represents a much more difficult problem and, with approximately 80 percent of the Army's direct support and general support wartime maintenance capability in the reserves, it was a problem that had to be solved.

The problem was twofold. First, many of the Reservists had never been trained on maintenance of the new equipment because they had attended Advanced Individual Training (AIT) before the equipment entered the inventory. These soldiers needed additional training to upgrade their existing skills on the older equipment and to acquire the skills needed to maintain the newer and more complex items. This upgrading process is referred to as "Transition Training."

Staying current

Secondly, a method was needed to maintain proficiency in those skills for which the soldiers had already been trained. This challenge was compounded by the fact that most Reservists did not have readily available access to the equipment. As a result, their skills had decayed over time. Preventing this decay requires a program of "Sustainment Training."

Correcting the problem by sending Reservists back to a formal proponent school (Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., Redstone Arsenal, Ala., Ft. Gordon, Ga., or Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.) would be very expensive. Even if funds were available, the soldiers might not be able to take time away from their civilian jobs and families.

The solution to this dilemma was to create a series of Regional Training Sites-Maintenance (RTS-Maint) with instructional programs approved by the proponent Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) schools and taught by certified instructors using the most modern equipment, simulators and training aids available.

TRADOC conducts accreditation

see RTS-M on page 24

RTS-M continued from page 23

inspections of each site to guarantee that the facilities and instruction meet the school standards. The formal process of accreditation makes the RTS-Maint an extension of the TRADOC school and ensures that students will get the best training possible.

This solution called for dispersing training sites around the country based on the potential student population of maintenance personnel in a given geographical area. However, due to the cost of building, equipping, manning and operating the RTS-Maint facilities, it was decided to limit the number to 19 sites teaching automotive and armament maintenance and two sites at Tobyhanna Army Depot, Pa., and Sacramento Army Depot, Calif., providing "high tech" instruction on communications and electronics equipment.

By spreading the sites around the country, the Army could provide high quality maintenance training while limiting student travel costs, and make the sites available for TPU soldiers for weekend training.

No training distractions

Each RTS-Maint is operated by a cadre of 13 fulltime Active Guard/Reserve soldiers who plan, prepare and conduct training, and perform the necessary administrative functions necessary to keep each site operating smoothly. The facilities provide the students a training environment free from training distractors that frequently occur during weekend training assemblies. This exceptional training environment maximizes the amount of classroom and hands-on training time the student actually receives. Some sites are manned by USAR soldiers and others by Army National Guard (ARNG) personnel, but each operates solely on a regional basis. Army Reserve and Army National Guard units send soldiers to the closest site, regardless of whether the location is an active installation or a National Guard installation, and regardless of whether the cadre is USAR or ARNG. The only things that matter are proximity and availability of courses.

The RTS-Maint sites provide students the opportunity to use the most modern tools, equipment, and training aids/simulators; and the students do not need to bring any equipment with them.

So far over $35 million has been spent in providing Abrams Tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicles, as well as special tools and the Integrated Family of Test Equipment (IFTE) to the facilities. Each site attempts to meet the training needs of its "customer" units, but can only do this if those needs are made known to the servicing site. The approved method of communicating the need is to use FORSCOM Form 216-R to identify training needs and to use the Army Training Requirements/Resource System (ATRRS) to request a school quota for a soldier.

Information on ATRRS can be obtained from your training section or from higher headquarters. Informal direct contact between the unit and the RTS-Maint is also encouraged as a means of enhancing the training process. The schools are there to provide the training that their local customers want and need.

REGIONAL TRAINING SITES — MAINTENANCE COURSES AVAILABLE

MOS	SKILL LEVEL	LEVEL
27E	10/30	TOW/DRAGON Repairer
29E	10/30	Radio Repairer
29J	10	Telecommunications Terminal Device Repairer
29M	10	Tactical Satellite/ Microwave Repairer
29N	10	Telephone Central Office Repairer
39E	10	Special Electronics Devices Repairer
41C	10/30	Fire Control Instrument Repairer
44B	10	Metal Worker
44E	10/30	Machinist
45B	10	Small Arms Repairer
45G	10/30	Fire Control System Repairer
45K	10/30	Tank Turret Repairer
45L	10	Artillery Repairer
45N	10	M60A1/A3 Tank Turret Mechanic
52C	10/30	Utilities Equipment Repairer
52D	10/30	Power Generation Equipment Repairer
52F	10/30	Turbine Engine Driven Generator Repairer
62B	10/30	Construction Equipment Repairer
63B	10/30	Light Wheel Vehicle Mechanic
63G	10	Fuel and Electrical Systems Repairer
63H	10/30	Tracked Vehicle Repairer
63N	10	M60A1/A3 Tank System Mechanic
63T	10	BRADLEY Fighting Vehicle System Mechanic
63W	10	Wheel Vehicle Repairer

Customized schedules

If a unit has a specific training need, the local RTS-Maint will attempt to schedule classes in the maintenance subject needed. Also, most of the sites have newsletters which they send to units in their area. If the newsletter is not coming to your unit, give the RTS-Maint a telephone call to let them know.

Future plans call for the facilities to begin teaching qualification courses in specific Military Occupational Specialties and Phase II of the Noncommissioned Officer Education System courses in Fiscal Year 1991. They also conduct transition and sustainment training which could lead to the award of an Additional Skill Identifier or assist a soldier in raising his SQT score. Sending soldiers to the local RTS-Maint will give them the training on new equipment that is probably not available at their local center or local training area. It will provide training on equipment that younger soldiers haven't seen since AIT, and which the older soldiers may have never seen.

The end result will be better trained soldiers, and units better able to perform their wartime missions.

(Maj. McLaughlin is assigned to OCAR's Training Support Office in Arlington, Va.)

What is ARPERCEN?

The U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Center (ARPERCEN) is a field operating agency of the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve. It performs a wide variety of missions on behalf of Army Reservists, particularly Individual Ready Reservists (IRR), Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) and Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) soldiers.

Correspondence to ARPERCEN should be addressed to:

Commander, ARPERCEN
Attn.: DARP-_____
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5200

When requesting assistance from ARPERCEN, be sure to include your social security number and sign your letter.

It's deja vu (all over again) at the 95th

by Capt. David H. Bennett

Oklahoma City, Okla. — Be selected for the highest honor a reserve drill sergeant can achieve — Training and Doctrine Command's *Reserve Drill Sergeant of the Year* — and in the 95th Division, you join a crowd.

At least that's how it must have seemed to **SSgt. James R. Ashwood** when it was announced that he had won the prestigious award at the completion of this year's competition at Ft. Monroe, Va.

When he was chosen as the 1990 winner, he became the third consecutive candidate from the division to be selected.

He joined 1988 recipient **SFC Raul Casas, Jr.** and the 1989 winner, **SSgt. Christopher Baer.**

"Of course, it's such an honor to be selected," said Ashwood, a Vietnam veteran and, at age 45, the oldest of this years's finalists. "It was a proud moment for me and my family, and certainly for my unit and the division."

According to **Maj. Gen. Robert C. Hope,** the division commander, "Our mission is to train and specifically to train drill sergeants. When I accepted this command, I told my staff and brigade commanders we were going to train to the rigid standards established by the Army."

With that clear command guidance in place, Army Physical Fitness Test scores rose steadily, SQT scores improved, absenteeism dropped and leaders began to emerge.

The triple threat from the 95th Division are entitled to rest on their laurels, for a few minutes, outside their reserve center in Oklahoma City. Actually, they are resting on a retired M-114 command track on display there. From left to right, they are SSgt. Christoper Baer, 1989 winner; SSgt. James R. Ashwood, 1990 winner and the 1988 winner, SFC Raul Casas, Jr. (Photo by Maj. G.R. Chernikoff)

"The division has been blessed with so many quality people," Hope continued, "and we've been able to secure the tools and training assignments to facilitate the kinds of training opportunities that let them shine."

Ashwood said that all of the finalists at Ft. Monroe were extremely sharp. But he was confident his training and preparation for the competition were as good as any of the others.

He admits that his "secret weapon" was the big plus of having the guidance and mentorship of his two predecessors.

"Certainly the help and direction I received from Chris and Raul was excellent," Ashwood asserted. The three had, on their own, spent time at the Ft. Sill Drill Sergeant's School to train and study with their active duty counterparts.

A contractor from Hulbert, Okla., he said his family was most understanding of his need to study long hours and he was happy his wife, Sheri, was able to accompany him to the week-long competition in Virginia. He also added that his own unit was most supportive with its ongoing training program.

"We have one desire as drill sergeants in the 95th," Ashwood summed up. "That's to make better troops and a better Army."

(Capt. Bennett is Public Affairs Officer for the 95th Div. (TNG), Oklahoma City, Okla.)

Houston reserve center is first USAR winner in Army Communities of Excellence program

by Lt. Col. Joe Lilli

Houston, Texas — The Sgt. Maj. Macario Garcia U.S. Army Reserve Center, headquarters for the 75th Maneuver Area Command (MAC), has won the Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) award for 1990.

The award is presented to the Army Reserve center judged to be the finest in the Army Reserve by the Army Chief of Staff and the Chief of Army Reserve.

After earlier formalities at the Pentagon, Maj. Gen. William F. Ward, Chief of Army Reserve, presented an inscribed trophy and a check for $150,000 to the reserve soldiers in a military ceremony on July 8, at the center.

The Houston reserve center — named for World War II Medal of Honor recipient Sgt. Maj. Macario Garcia, who served as a

see ACOES on page 26

Standing in the Pentagon's *Hall of Heroes,* Army Chief of Staff General Carl E. Vuono, left, presents the Army Communities of Excellence Trophy to Maj. Gen. Don Aviles, 75th Maneuver Area Command commander. Brig. Gen John Simek, far right, and a representative from the 807th Medical Bde., one of the major tenants at the winning center, heft a replica of the $150,000 check.

(U.S. Army photo)

New Jersey medic is USAR representative at White House 'Millionth-GI-Bill-User' fete

by MSgt. John A. Esposito and John E. Burick

Washington, D.C. — Spec. Linda J. Meidling, an Army Reserve medic assigned to the 322nd General Hospital, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., was honored recently at a White House Rose Garden ceremony recognizing the millionth participant in the Montgomery GI Bill.

During the ceremony, President George Bush commended the honored service members for making a commitment to education and thanked Rep. G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, U.S. Senator from Mississippi for the landmark legislation the latter helped enact in 1985.

"The . . . bill ranks as one of the most practical and cost-efficient programs ever devised," the President asserted, adding the GI Bill has represented one of the federal government's best investments.

"The program has more than paid for itself," Bush continued, "even as payouts increase, four decades of experience have shown . . . increased earnings from educated GIs means an increase in tax revenues for America."

The President also agreed with Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney's earlier comment that the military has saved in training costs because the GI Bill has attracted more intelligent soldiers and has contributed to a lower attrition rate.

Opening the ceremony, Montgomery passed out commemorative plaques to the 12 service members recognized, one from each service and component, and told an assembled crowd of 200 military and civilian officials, including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Colin Powell, that America's greatest resource is its men and women in uniform.

"Today, we recognize these fine young men and women who are serving their country and who also want to continue their education to help make themselves better citizens," Montgomery concluded.

A resident of East Hanover, N.J., Meidling is a Dean's List student studying biology at Stockton State College in New Jersey and is a two-year veteran in the reserve.

"I felt honored to participate in the White House ceremony," she said. "My parents and I enjoyed our special trip to Washington.

"The Mongtomery GI Bill is one incentive which influenced my decision to enlist in the Army Reserve because I have time to concentrate on studies. Another reason is the many military specialties available to females," she added.

Standing just to the rear of President George Bush during a Rose Garden ceremony held to honor Montgomery GI Bill users recently, the USAR representative, Spec. Linda Meidling of the 322nd General Hospital, Picatinny Arsenal, N.J., listens as the Commander-in-Chief outlines the importance of the program to the nation. (Photo by MSgt. John Esposito)

ACOES

continued from page 25

Reservist in Houston for several years — was selected as "the best of the best" from among 1,300 reserve centers nationwide. It is the first time that an Army Reserve center has received the prestigious Army Communities of Excellence award. Prior to this year, only active Army installations were eligible.

According to Maj. Gen. Don Aviles, commander of the 75th Maneuver Area Command, the Garcia USAR Center excelled in three major areas. First, the services provided to its Reservists, civilian employees and their families, ranging from medical and legal aid to education and family support, all of which are administered efficiently and without bureaucratic red tape. The second area is an exceptionally pleasant and productive working and training environment and third, outstanding community involvement.

The Army Communities of Excellence program is based on the principle that Army communities, such as a reserve center, support people best by combining excellent facilities with excellent services. The objective is to maintain or improve the morale, welfare, and sense of well-being of their soldiers, civilian employees and families. This sense of caring aids in recruiting and retention, and ultimately increases the combat readiness of the Army Reserve. The program also calls for getting Reservists involved in improving their local community.

The $150,000 prize will be spent on further enhancing and improving the center for the benefit of the Reservists, civilian employees, and their families. Among the projects? Two outdoor multi-purpose pavilions which can be used to provide cover for outdoor training such as SQTs and Common Tasks Training. Audio-visual equipment will be added to the center's assembly hall as well as to other classrooms and murals depicting the center's major tenants will be commissioned and mounted on walls in the center. Besides the 75th MAC, other units assigned to the Garcia Center include the 4151st USAR Forces School, a subordinate unit of the 90th Army Reserve Command in San Antonio, and seven subordinate units of the 807th Medical Brigade of Seagoville, Texas.

(Lt. Col. Lilli is Public Affairs Officer for the 75th Maneuver Area Command in Houston, Texas)

Riggers try hand at rappelling

by Sgt. Dorothy Young

These riggers really wanted to jump, but something kept getting in the way, it seemed.

"We tried three times to jump and each time something went wrong. Personally, I can take a hint. No thanks!" he said, waving his hands in the air and shaking his head.

For SSgt. Ron Hughes and other members of the Army Reserve's 421st Quartermaster Company, annual training at Ft. Bragg, N.C., was one "no jump" after another.

The first time the plane "scratched" on the ramp. The second time the scheduled aircraft developed mechanical problems. The weather was the culprit the last time — ceiling too low, winds to high.

"It really is incredible," declared the 412th's company commander, Maj. Thomas Heaton. "We haven't had any 'no jumps' since I've been with the unit. We've had to 'racetrack' around a little to let winds die down, but never this. That's just the way it goes," he said, shrugging his shoulders.

Though the Fort Valley, Ga., unit didn't get to jump, it did get to dig in defensive positions and operate in a tactical field environment.

"We don't get to practice our combat skills too often because we either jump or just go out to Ft. Benning to set up bivouac and then come back in. I enjoyed this part of the training a lot," said Spec. Tony McClenton of Columbus, Ga. "I got to set up booby traps in the field, go out on recon missions and attack opposing forces. It was something different."

As one of only three airborne quartermaster units in the entire Army, the unit's mission is to receive, store and drop any supplies that might be needed in a theater of operations.

"Each of the company's four platoons are self-sufficient," said SFC James Brantley of Ellaville, Ga. "Most of the riggers are on jump status, and all jumpers are already qualified or are being trained to be riggers. Each platoon also has general supply clerks, material storage specialists, crane operators, administrative clerks, communications . . . the works."

The unit has an in-house rigging school that's conducted during drill weekends. Soldiers learn how to pack and maintain parachutes, and rig supplies on pallets for air delivery. They then go to Ft. Lee, Va., for their final certification. They can also attend the three-month resident course at Ft. Lee to become qualified riggers. Jump school lasts for three weeks at Ft. Benning, where the unit also does most of its training to maintain jump status.

"We have to jump at least once a quarter to stay qualified," said Heaton. "Our extra jump pay is prorated for four days over each month and works out to about $14 a jump."

Since the unit didn't get to jump during this AT, they did the next best thing — they rappelled. Sliding down ropes from a 65-foot tower, everyone participated in the training, even the non-jumpers.

"I was scared to death, the tower instructor kept hollering at me to 'get off my tower,' but I couldn't move," noted one of the "leg" quartermasters. "Once I got started, though, I gained enough confidence to keep on going. I'm glad it's over."

Spec. George Ross, a member of the 320th Military Police Company who supported the 421st as a cook, was happy to train on the tower.

"I'm a firefighter in St. Petersburg, Fla., and we sometimes have to rappel from the third or fourth floors of burning buildings. This training is really going to help me in my job."

(Sgt. Young is assigned to the 81st ARCOM's Public Affairs Office in High Point, Ga.)

Reductions hit ROTC Cadets

Washington, D.C. — Non-scholarship senior ROTC cadets scheduled to serve in the reserve components now have the option to turn down their commissions according to Army personnel officials.

Non-scholarship cadets can apply for release from the service obligation incurred when they signed their advanced course contracts.

"The program is being implemented because of personnel reductions in the active Army and the reserve components which are overstrength," said Lt. Col. John Buckley of the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

"As a result, many students from this year's ROTC commissioning class selected for duty in the reserve forces will face considerable delays in being able to serve in the Army National Guard or an Army Reserve Troop Program Unit."

Buckley says newly-commissioned ROTC lieutenants assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve can expect delays in attending a branch Officer Basic Course. "Funding constraints in the reserve personnel pay accounts will significantly reduce training opportunities for new reserve lieutenants in the IRR," he said.

"Professors of military science will brief their eligible cadets," Buckley explained. Cadet Command will provide sample letters which cadets can use to request release. A Cadet Command board will consider the requests."

Buckley says that Cadet Command will provide implementing guidance to ROTC battalion commanders. Cadets requesting release will apply through those commanders to Cadet Command. Released Cadets in the ROTC/Reserve Component Simultaneous Membership Program will complete their service obligation as members of their National Guard or Army Reserve units. Prior service cadets with a service obligation, who are not in the SMP, will complete their obligation in the IRR.

Cut-rate airfares no good for most Reservists

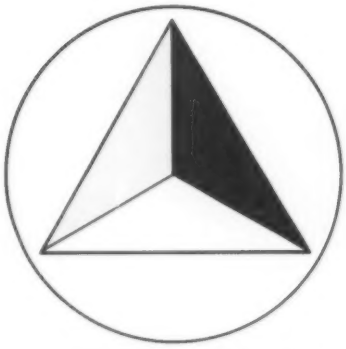
Falls Church, Va. — What many Reservists have interpreted at first to be good news for **all** military travelers and their families who wish to use discounted air fares within the United States, has turned out to be a misinterpretation.

At the urging of the Military Traffic Management Command, two major U.S. airlines last year joined USAir, the program's originator, in offering special "furlough fares" to soldiers and, in some cases, their families.

The discount "furlough fare" program is not a new concept. It was initiated for active duty service members and their families and expanded in 1988 as the deregulated airlines continued their battle to win new customers. By and large, the participating airlines offer fares which are 50 percent of the standard coach fare. However, contrary to many rumors in the field, they do not apply, in general, to Reservists.

AGR soldiers and their families are eligible for the fares and should check with their installation commercial travel office or any travel agent. In all cases, the service member must present appropriate identification upon ticket pick-up or at the time of check-in. Proper identification is DA Form 2A (the green military ID card). None of the current participants' programs includes retirees.

Besides USAir, American and Delta Airlines round out the trio of U.S. carriers who offer "furlough fares".



RESERVE COMPONENT AUTOMATION SYSTEM

Finally, an automation system for the soldier

by Maj. Jack D. Oden

Newington, Va. — In 1988, the Army's reserve components, which includes both the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve, assumed responsibility for a program to develop a system which will automate mobilization planning and execution, as well as day to day unit administration.

That program is the Reserve Component Automation System or, RCAS, and is the result of language included in the Defense Appropriations Act of that year.

Many situations require the involvement of reserve forces, either as individuals or as units, the most recent example being *Operation Just Cause* in Panama. Here the Army called for Reservist volunteers from all over the United States highlighting the need for effective automation. This ever-increasing reliance on the reserve components makes the fielding of RCAS even more crucial.

New momentum

The past few years have witnessed a concerted effort by reserve units, commands and managing agencies worldwide to move forward on the RCAS program. Reservists and civilians from across the United States have dedicated 13,000 work-days alone in defining their automation requirements for mobilization.

These requirements form the RCAS functional description. With it, and Department of Defense approval in hand , the RCAS Program Management Office released a formal Request for Proposals and the proposals, or bids, have now been received and are under review.

The reserve component-controlled portion of the program is on schedule and has met all targeted milestones.

You might ask, why go to all this trouble? What exactly is RCAS, and why is it important? In a word: mobilization.

Mobilizing the forces is a vast undertaking; complex and crucial to fulfilling the principal mission of the Army's reserve components.

Mobilizing units requires a timely and accurate flow of information. While various automated systems to aid the flow are already in place, they do not have the capability of sharing information among themselves. In addition, the current systems do not perform all of the tasks required for mobilization. As a result, reporting requirements and other administrative tasks take soldiers away from training.

Great dispersion

Today, more than 9,800 Army National Guard and Army Reserve units would mobilize from more than 4,700 sites located in 50 states and four U.S. territories, as well as in Europe. The Army's reserve components constitute 67-percent of combat support and combat service support forces. They also represent more than half of the combat force available and half of the total U.S. Army.

From the magnitude of the requirement, it's obvious the Army must have an automated system to gather, process, and report information about its reserve elements and this system must perform all mobilization functions and simplify unit administration, thereby freeing soldiers to train. According to RCAS specialists, the system is designed to meet these requirements and will provide timely and accurate information as well as permit single entry of changes, provide communication with all relevant computer systems and provide electronic communication within both peacetime and CAPSTONE chains of command.

Additionally, it will automate unit administration, mobilization planning and execution, and operate as an independent system serving thousands of users, while remaining user-friendly and be maintained by the contractor.

All-purpose system

RCAS will support both of the Army's reserve components, whether in logistics, personnel, finance, or any other functional area. No matter what you do, RCAS will eliminate most of your major paperwork burdens, allowing us to focus on the most important aspects of our jobs, while RCAS takes care of the rest.

This winter, the RCAS Program Management Office will select at least two bidders who will participate in a "competitive demonstration" of their design during the summer of 1991. After this "shoot-off", the winning contractor will be named and will provide a schedule to field RCAS to all reserve component training sites. According to officials, the RCAS Program Management Office will publish and distribute the schedule, allowing each unit to include time for RCAS in its annual training plans.

RCAS is in the hands of the reserves to build and field, and the committment to using the best resources to help get the job done has been made. It will be a system that functions efficiently and effectively by integrating standard equipment and operating systems and will set the example for all subsequent Army and Department of Defense automation projects.

A introductory video and information paper will soon be available to all reserve centers on what truly will be a system developed by and for the Reservist.

(Maj. Oden is a staff officer with the RCAS Program Management Office in Newington, Va.)

Can't use commissary card

I have just read the latest CARNOTES and I got very concerned with the Commissary Privilege Card for Reservists. It is my understanding that all active Reservists presently in a TPU will get the card automatically and I think this is great.

On the other hand I think that in the process of this card, they discriminated against Reservists in [one of the] Control Group[s] such as myself.

I served honorably and faithfully for 35 long years of active and reserve duty. I served in combat in Korea and was recalled in 1961 during the Berlin Crisis.

When I completed my 35 years I was mandatorily removed from an active reserve status, but I elected to keep serving as a member of the IRR and I do my Annual Training every year. As of November 1989, I have completed 39 GOOD YEARS of service yet I am not entitled to a Commissary Card according to my PMO at ARPERCEN.

Someone needs to look this new program over and include us old fossils there, too. We served more and longer and some of us were in actual combat which is more than some other young kids have done, yet we are not entitled to anything.

I am 58 years old, which means I have to wait two more years to actually retire and get my entitlement. This is not fair. I did my thing, I served and am still serving.

Why can't I be entitled to commissary privileges?

CSM Fabio Cantu
San Antonio, Texas

Unfortunately, your perception of the situation is correct, as is the guidance from your career manager, though it may seem to be a bit of a Catch-22. The program is aimed ONLY at TPU members. Members of the IRR or the IMA programs are still entitled use of commissary and post exchange privileges on the same basis as they always have been. That is during periods of actual AT, ADT or ADSW. Your situation, just like the retiree who must wait until attaining age 60 to regain privileges lost years earlier, falls into the "gray area" of retiree benefits which are the subject or regular discussion both within OCAR and between OCAR and Capitol Hill.

In fact, the Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the 1991 defense authorization bill addresses virtually all of the "gray area" privileges and recommends extending commissary, exchange and recreation rights to retired Reservists younger than 60. The language of the House Armed Services Committee's version was not available at press time, but it did appear that commissary use may not be favorably viewed in its bill.

More on retention issues

I just received the second issue of **ARMY RESERVE Magazine** and wanted to thank you for publishing the results of the 1989 WESTAT Study.

Boy, did the results hit home with our unit! We are constantly losing good soldiers in our squadron. In April, I lost my sharpest motor sergeant who ETSd out. He was fed up with the USAR.

Although the article by Lt. Cols. White and Simpson did say that "local" causes of attrition were down, they did NOT say that the "systemic" causes of attrition were down. The lack of the timely receipt of correct pay and benefits is our number one cause of attrition. Labeled as a "systemic" cause, I feel powerless to do anything about solving the problem.

From experience I know that unit technicians are seen as part of the "USAR leadership." When the Unit Technician makes a mistake, the USAR soldier thinks "the Army" has singled him/her out for punishment without cause. In both the TPUs I've been a member of, neither Unit Administrator was competent enough to avoid constant pay or promotion problems.

Here's another example of a "systemic cause" of attrition: printed as early as 1988, I've been reading USAR pamphlets tell how I can qualify for a VA/FHA home loan after serving at least 90 days of continuous active duty. After completion of Quartermaster Officer Basic Course last October, I applied for a Certificate of Veteran's Status. The VA told me that the law changed in 1982 and that the requirement is no longer 90 days, but 24 months! Whoops, there goes another benefit no longer available to the Army Reservist! Did I miss this change being printed somewhere?

I'm grateful someone in the USAR was smart enough to commission the WESTAT study. However, I'm concerned that "systemic" problems right now are going to cause senior NCO and senior officer shortages in the future.

2nd Lt. Sherman J. Cold
Lincoln, Neb.

We were unable to find the USAR-pamphlet of 1988 you cite, but a check with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) here in Washington confirms that the 24-month rule for entitlement eligibility is factual (sec. 3013a of Title 38, United States Code) and that it has been in effect since 1982. Such pamphlets in the field frequently take on a life of their own when they should have been "circular-filed" by the local unit. If you have the pamphlet and will send it to us, we'll get it into the right hands to be fixed.

Also, the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation in mid-July which would grant VA home loan guarantees to Reservists with more than six years of inactive duty. Stay tuned!

Use of hospital

What is the regulation saying a member of the Reserve can't use the military hospital, except on drill dates?

Sgt. Robert M. Peterson
Urbana, Ill.

The regulation you are looking for is AR 40-3. which should be available in your Reserve Center.

Paragraph 4 of the reg lists Persons eligible for care in Army medical treatment facilities. Basically, Reservists are authorized military hospital care while on inactive duty training only if injured in the line of duty.

Otherwise, generally speaking, Reservists not on active duty are not authorized military medical care at any time.

Post stickers for reserve retirees?

My husband has received his 20-year letter and is still a member of the Army Reserve. I feel Reservists should be entitled to full privileges (full retirement pay, hospitalization, commissary, etc.) at the time of their retirement. They have served their country well just as the full-time military person has done with 20 years' service, because the Reservist is balancing a full-time job along with a reserve career. Another thing to think about is this: any Reservist who wants to enter a "closed" base, must first get a visitor pass. Why not reward the 20-year-letter Reservist with a base sticker for their vehicle to expedite their entry onto a closed base?

Iris Teague
Corpus Christi, Texas

The LAW is the LAW

On the cover of Issue 4/1988 you show SSgt. Darell Smith with what you describe as an M79 LAW.

I believe the M79 is a 40mm grenade launcher, and the M72 is the LAW.

CW2 Ken Guier
Ponca City, Okla.

We believe you are correct.

more 'Forum' on page 30

Unit citations

Some of my fellow Reservists and myself were surprised to learn that the units we served with during our active duty tours in Vietnam were awarded citations and awards during the periods we were assigned to them. These awards were presented to the units after our Regular Army discharges and do not appear on our DD 214s.

My questions: are we allowed to wear these awards on Class A uniforms and, if so, how do we get them recorded and recognized in our 201 files? Would these unit awards and citations, campaign stars and medals be worth promotion and/or retirement points.

SFC Robert D. Lindley
Las Vegas, Nev.

To get such unit citations on your record, you need proof of two things. First, that you were assigned to the unit during the period covered by the award and, second, that the unit did indeed receive the citation.

Your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) should take care of the first requirement: it is on file at ARPERCEN in St. Louis. Unit members should request a copy of their file through their unit personnel office. IRR soldiers can request one through their career advisor or personnel management officer. If you still have a copy of orders assigning you to the unit, those will work, too.

Next, you can obtain a copy of the official historical brief of the unit to which you belonged, which will include citations received by the unit in Vietnam. The historical briefs are available by writing to the U.S. Army Center for Military History, Unit Histories Branch, Casimir Pulaski Bldg. 20 Massachusetts Ave. NW., Washington, D.C. 20001.

Once you have the two elements of proof, your unit personnel officer is authorized to append the awards on your record, and you will be authorized to wear the award.

Unit citations have no value toward retirement or promotion points.

NCOLP alternative highlighted

I read with interest, in Volume XXXV, Number 3 of your magazine, the article by MSgt. Weese pertaining to the Noncommissioned Officer Logistics Program.

My interest is predicated on several years spent furthering training of the Materiel Section of the 311th Support Command (Corps), USAR, a major logistics command [headquartered in Los Angeles]. The article tends to discourage rather than encourage participation in the program, in that it fails to point out that any United States noncommissioned officer in the grade of E6 or above may enroll in Army Correspondence Course Program 2-254, a curriculum consisting of 35 subcourses totalling 208 credit hours. Completion of the program generates a Completion Certificate and AR 614-200 para. 7-18 h. (2) (b) provides that ARNG and USAR soldiers "May receive SQI 'K' as a result of . . . completion of the non-resident course of instruction."

I trust that the foregoing information will encourage NCOs of the appropriate grade, whether logisticians or not, to broaden their careers through the use of this effective tool.

Lt. Col. (Ret.) J.P. Rems
Santa Monica, Calif.

Address change

In the last week of December I wrote to you asking to be added to the mailing list of **ARMY RESERVE Magazine.** I would like to thank you for your prompt response to my inquiry.

In your response, you suggested that I go to my unit technician to set the process for receiving the magazine in motion. I followed your suggestion. I found that my unit technician had no idea what this process is, and mentioned that others in the unit had asked about receiving the magazine. I would appreciate it if you would please send me a detailed outline of the procedure. I intend to pass this outline on to my unit technician in order that I and the other members of my unit might be able to begin receiving **ARMY RESERVE Magazine.**

Spec. Steven M. Steinkamp
Kansas City, Mo.

ARMY RESERVE Magazine *is sent to the home address of each reserve soldier for which a home address is on file. In the case of unit members the file comes from the "home address" block of those soldiers' SIDPERS-USAR files. There is no special information block for the magazine.*

SIDPERS records are entered at unit level and reported through the MUSARC and the CONUSA to FORSCOM and, ultimately, to ARPERCEN. The address data on file at ARPERCEN is combined with addresses from other source lists to produce the mailing labels furnished to our printing contractor

Personal data, such as addresses, can only be changed in SIDPERS at the local input level. This means that soldiers must keep their unit advised if their address changes. **No** *higher headquarters (and certainly not the magazine staff) can make changes. The actual computer input point may not be located at your unit, but at some central location within the MUSARC. It can take 30-60 days for address changes to make the trek from unit level to ARPERCEN, perhaps longer, if unit personnel responsible for SIDPERS input don't consider updating address information a matter of priority.*

We are not sure how many Reservists have an incorrect or no address at all at ARPERCEN, but based upon postal returns, we'd guess about three- to five-percent are bad on the computer.

"Second Class" treatment?

Sir:

Everytime I read my copy of **ARMY RESERVE Magazine** I am reminded how much the reserve means to the concept of "The Total Army." It always sounds good and I know we are important, but we are still the second class soldiers to the active component.

I put in eight years on active duty, got out with the rank of staff sergeant and went into the reserve upon my discharge, and proceeded to do four good years of weekend drills and my yearly two-week training. I even continued my training by completing Army correspondence courses in chemical, supply and administration — a good soldier.

After four years, I thought I'd like to go back on active service. First, I was treated almost as a criminal because I was prior service, and then was told I could go back as an E-3.

I asked about the big drop from E-6 to E-3 — didn't my reserve time and training count anything? I was told it really didn't add up to a hill of beans. So much for One Army Concept; it means something to me, but not much to the Army.

Scott Campbell
Huntsville, Ala.

Update: VA Insurance

Following are typical questions answered daily by VA counselors:

Q — Is there a toll-free number for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Insurance Center?

A — Call the VA Insurance Service at 1-800-422-8079 if you have questions or need any service on your VA insurance policy.

Q — Do I have to notify the Dept. of Veterans Affairs when I rent my home which I purchased with a VA-guaranteed loan?

A — No. Although homes purchased with a VA-guaranteed loan require that the purchaser certify at time of settlement that the home will be his primary residence, if circumstances subsequently change it is not necessary to notify the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Bye-bye birdie...

Spec. Cissy Hawkins, a mechanic with the 223rd Maintenance Company, Ft. Worth, Texas, takes a break from her Annual Training in Honduras to show off her Spanish-speaking pal. Hawkins was in Honduras in support of the continuing road-building project, *Fuertes Caminos*. Be sure to see our next edition for a wrap-up of the 1990 effort.

(Photo by Ed Sokolski)

Department of the Army
Office of the Chief, Army Reserve
ATTN: DARP-NC-PAS
1815 N. Ft. Myer Drive, Room 501
Arlington, VA 22209-1805

Official Business

DO NOT FORWARD

THIRD CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
U.S. Army Publications
and
Printing Command

UNIVERSITY MICROFILMS INTERN L
300 N ZEEB ROAD
ANN ARBOR MI

48106